



Press Release

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Gatlinburg Receives TML Achievement Award For Public Works

The City of Gatlinburg has been recognized by the Tennessee Municipal League for its implementation of a Vehicle Replacement Program during the 2011-12 Fiscal Year.

Gatlinburg received the 2012 Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Works during TML's 73rd annual conference on June 12 in Knoxville.

Gatlinburg Commissioner Mark McCown, City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director David Beeler and Fire Chief Greg Miller were on hand to accept the award which focuses on the City's process of managing and assessing its fleet of vehicles and setting guidelines for funding and replacement of that equipment.

During the fall of 2010, Ogle formed a committee of Department Heads led by Miller. The group created a spreadsheet that ranked equipment by age, condition, replacement cost and leasing options. It established guidelines for replacement using a weighted point system based on age, usage, maintenance and repair cost, type of service, and overall condition of each of the 142 vehicles in Gatlinburg's fleet.

The University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) analyzed the data and recommended criteria for a fleet replacement plan with an emphasis on phased purchases and financing alternatives. It ranked vehicles, examined financial alternatives and recommended that the City establish a vehicle replacement fund.

"The City's staff did an excellent job of assessing each of its vehicles, listing conditions, mileage, replacement cost, life expectancy and more," said Sharon Rollins, MTAS Consultant.

City Commission funded the first year of the replacement fund through careful planning by staff, resulting in the addition of a number of new vehicles to Gatlinburg's fleet, including police patrol cars, sanitation and service trucks, an ambulance and other vehicles for several Departments.

Each year, the Tennessee Municipal League honors Cities throughout the State for overall excellence, improvement, specific outstanding programs, or Department accomplishments.